



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release
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Free Kids' Fishing Clinic Promises Afternoon of Learning and Fun

The National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy are partnering with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to sponsor a kids' fishing clinic at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The clinic is designed to introduce kids to fishing in Kansas. The event is scheduled for Saturday April 26, 2008 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and targeted to kids aged 15 and under.


The Kansas Park Trust and Strong City Grocery will provide free sack lunches before the clinic from noon to 1 p.m. for the first 75 participants. Representatives from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) will teach casting, knot tying, fish identification and safety. Volunteers from many organizations, including the Kansas State University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society, will be on hand to help kids practice their new skills while fishing in one of the three ponds. The Watershed Institute will have an environmental education trailer onsite filled with fun activities. Farmers and Drovers Bank of Council Grove will donate \$100 in savings bonds. Prizes and gifts from Bass Pro Shops, The Nature Conservancy, the National Park Service, KDWP and others will be awarded.

The KDWP will provide fishing poles and bait for use during the clinic. After the clinic, the fishing ponds will be opened to anglers of all ages. A valid Kansas fishing license is required for anglers between the ages of 16 – 65.

The kids' fishing clinic marks the beginning of a new recreational fishing program available at the preserve. Three stock ponds will be opened to the public for catch and release fishing under

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KDWP's Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (F.I.S.H.) program. The fishing program is available during daylight hours from March 1 through October 31.

The fishing ponds are located 1.5 miles east of Strong City on U.S. Highway 50. Turn north on U- Road at the Kansas historic marker and travel approximately one mile. The parking lot is on the west side of the road. The ponds are accessible via a short hike from the parking area. In addition to a valid Kansas fishing license for those aged 16 to 65, anglers will need to have in their possession a free Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve permit. These permits must be completed per the instructions located at the kiosk in the parking area prior to fishing. Anglers are limited to worms and artificial lures and may fish from the bank only. Additional fishing regulations are posted at the parking area kiosk.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a public/private partnership with the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Kansas Park Trust. Located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway), the preserve's historic ranch headquarters is open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr, e-mail tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494.

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